

Archery FAQ

1. Why Archery?

- a. Archery's popularity has grown quickly over the last several years. It is a sport that appeals to families, both genders, and all age groups in a variety of group settings
- b. Archery allows for a wide diversity of participation. A person needs no special physical abilities or natural talents to participate. Anyone can quickly become proficient to a level of being competitive at an entry level, including people with physical or other disabilities. Archery is a great competition sport where all ages, young and old, can compete with one another making it a very family friendly activity.
- c. Archery ranges is easy to set-up and take down in a single day. It is a low impact event with a minimal footprint.
- d. Certified target archery instruction programs have very low accident/injury rates

2. What are the benefits of having an archery event or program?

- a. Hosting a single archery event provides a venue where one can easily explain to participants how the purchase of archery equipment or involvement in any of the shooting sports supports wildlife conservation through an excise tax (Pittman-Robertson Act). Since 1975, excise taxes paid on bows and arrows have contributed more than \$320 million to state conservation programs. These taxes are collected by the Internal Revenue Service and distributed to state wildlife agencies under the USFWS Wildlife and Sport fish Restoration Program. States use the funds for a variety of purposes, including bowhunter education and training.
- b. Archery allows a national wildlife refuge to introduce bowhunting through programs such as Explore Bowhunting (22 Nature based activities designed to teach participants about wildlife, ecology, hunting and conservation). Even if participants decide they are not interested in hunting, the program can teach them hunting's role in outdoor recreation and wildlife conservation.
- c. Archery can provide skills for other wildlife activities. For example, the skills that make a bowhunter successful in being able get close to wildlife while hunting are the same skills needed to be successful in other wildlife related activities such as photography and wildlife viewing.
- d. Archery is a life-long sport open to all ages, genders and participants with mobility challenges.
- e. Archery introduces youth to the elements of practice, goal setting, discipline, teamwork and achievement. It is an effective, low-pressure way to introduce youth to sports.

3. How does this relate to Youth and the Great Outdoors?

- a. Archery is a rapidly growing sport. According to surveys conducted by the Archery Trade Association (ATA) and the Sporting Goods Manufacturing Association (SGMA), about 9 million people participate in archery in the U.S. annually; this includes recreational target archery and bowhunting. According to SGMA, 61% of all archery participants are under 35 years old (2010).
- b. School based archery programs, such as the NASP® (National Archery in the Schools Program), estimate that in the 2009-2010 school year the annual number of participants topped 1.5 million students. Considering that Little League Baseball® entertains approx 2.4 million participants annually, the interest and growth in archery participation is significant. See NASP Messenger Issue 1 July 1st 2010
- c. Archery is predominately practiced outdoors and can easily act as a gateway to other outdoor activities such as Becoming an Outdoors Women (BOW), Olympic style target archery, Explore Bowhunting or

activities such as wildlife viewing, photography, bowfishing, or an opportunity to teach youth about careers in conservation.

- d. A survey conducted of NASP students in 2005 by the ATA found an increase in the number of students who were interested in learning more about bowhunting after being introduced to archery.
4. Is archery safe?
 - a. Yes, archery has one the lowest injury/accident rates of most common sport activities. Only bowling, badminton and table tennis reported fewer injuries and accidents. For a detailed report go to the ATA Insight brochure "Is Archery a Safe Sport? Yes!".
5. What are the different archery equipment options?
 - a. Styles of archery equipment vary greatly, including traditional equipment such as long and recurve bows. Compound bows have become popular and provide opportunities for many people to become proficient due to the reduced draw weight and ease of shooting. Crossbows, which are basically a bow mounted on a stock and shot from a horizontal position, are increasing in popularity and help disabled shooters participate equally. The variety of equipment offers participants many different ways to become involved in archery and allows for new challenges and experiences.
6. Is archery as simple as shooting at bull's-eyes or hunting with a bow and arrow?
 - a. No, archery is a sport with a large opportunity for a variety of equipment, styles of targets and variety of events. These include indoor and outdoor archery, Olympic, field archery, bow fishing, 3-D target shooting, video archery and hunting events which allows for broad interests and opportunities.
 - b. Simple archery games can be created, such as archery trivia, which can then be used to ask questions about any subject matter including USFWS careers, refuges, and fisheries. This game can easily be used to inform participants about the USFWS service and its mission.
7. Do I have to purchase the equipment?
 - a. No. There are different options, depending on the goals of the program. One option is to look at an organization such as USA Archery and the After School Archery Program (ASAP, www.teacharchery.org) which has several options for the purchase or rental of equipment for a week or a month. Another option may be to work with the State NASP® Coordinator, typically found through the state fish and wildlife agency. National and local archery organizations or area clubs can often assist with staffing or even running the event.
8. What equipment do I need?
 - a. In general it is best to have an ample supply of the same or similar bow types. For example, you might want 12 recurve bows and 60 arrows, along with a quiver, arm guard and finger tab. Targets are also necessary, and they can be as simple as hay bales with paper targets, or official archery targets.
9. Where can I shoot? How do I set-up a range?
 - a. A safe area for shooting should be at least 40'x60' with a safety net or other safe backstop along with a clear view to each side and behind. Having a clear view ensures that nothing can enter the shooting area without being seen and that any arrows that happen to miss the target do not travel to an area where other people or animals may be.
10. Do I need special training?
 - a. Yes. Someone certified as a basic archery instructor at minimum should run or oversee any type of archery event. There are several national organizations that can provide contact information for certified instructors that can usually run a one day event.
 - b. Another option would be for refuge staff or volunteers to become certified as instructors. Here is a list of a few national organizations you could contact to see about obtaining training as an archery instructor. Most classes for basic archery instructor certification are approximately 8 hours in length.

- i. National Field Archery Association (NFAA) at <http://www.nfaa-archery.org/>
- ii. USA Archery at <http://usarchery.org/coaching-and-education/coach-locator> or 352-472-2388
- iii. USA Archery/After School Archery (ASAP) at www.teacharchery.org – “Find An Archery Coach” option
- iv. National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP®) <http://naspatchery.com/activea.asp>

11. How do I get started?

- a. First, establish a **desired outcome or goal** for your event. Below are just a few possibilities:
 - i. Increased Visitation
 - 1. Holding an archery event as part of an open house or Earth Day event can potentially bring visitors that may not otherwise attend.
 - ii. Increased awareness of Hunting
 - 1. Although most introductory archery programs are target based, they can still introduce participants to hunting. Research has shown that a large percentage of youth introduced to archery are interested in learning about bowhunting.
 - iii. Educational Program
 - 1. Explore bowhunting is an educational program which includes 22 different activities, most of which do not directly involve hunting or shooting a bow. Examples of some of the activities include:
 - a. Animal Track Bingo: Students learn to identify and interpret animal tracks and signs
 - b. Don't call Blind: Student learn how birds and animals use calls and sounds to communicate
 - c. Camo Hide and Seek : Students learn how animals use camouflage and the impact of movement
 - d. Map it out: Students develop an understanding that animals, including humans, have predictable movements and behavior patterns.
 - iv. Building Partnerships: Almost every state currently participates in the National Archery in the schools Program and can be a great resource and support. Also local and national archery clubs can provide mentors and potentially increase participation in a friends group.

Based on the decision to (“a.” above), the rest of these can be more easily answered.

- b. **Get a certified instructor.** Either become a certified archery instructor or find a certified instructor to run a one day program or longer event.
- c. **Obtain equipment.**
 - i. Contact the state archery coordinator to find out about existing programs in your state. There may be programs which provide equipment either through a loan, grant or equipment share plan.
 - ii. Archery kits are available for purchase or rental as already mentioned through a variety of organizations. It is recommended that you discuss how to obtain a kit with the certified instructor, or contact one of the organizations noted in question 10.
- d. **Pick a program or event** - The only limits are resources and desired results of hosting an event.

- i. After School Archery Program (ASAP). This program offers a set curriculum for 60-90 minute classes with flexible lesson plans ranging from 5 days to 16 weeks. Visit <http://www.afterschoolarchery.org>
- ii. Another option maybe to look at just having a fun shoot event in conjunction with another activity or planned event. This type of activity just gives a basic introduction to archery and allows each person the opportunity to shoot a couple arrows at a target. During this event you can then conduct a survey to see how much interest there may be in having a longer event or program.
- iii. Look into hosting the State NASP® event. Contact the state archery coordinator.

12. Doesn't interest fade when just shooting at a bull's-eye all the time?

- a. That is one of the great things about Archery, the diversity of options are limitless. Shooting at a Bull's eye is only the beginning. Students can move on to 3-D archery, Olympic-style archery, field archery, bowfishing, and/ or bowhunting. There are many different styles of archery to choose from and the number of games or activities that can be set up are almost endless. Adding variety to any archery target or backstop can quickly increase the fun factor. For example, you can simply add a piece of cardboard with a tic-tac-toe face to the front of target, move the shooting line back, or play a variety of typical Dart games such a Cricket or 301, Baseball, or trivia games. Games can be drawn on cardboard or paper stock and placed on the front of a target face, or can be purchased from retailers.

13. What is the liability risk with having an archery event at our facility?

- a. This document is in no way to be used in reference to Legal advice and any question or concern should be addressed to the Solicitors Office. Consideration should be given to review the Tort Claims Act and also the States Recreational Use Statute. However, in general, holding an archery event at a facility should be essentially no different than any other event held at that facility. The event or program should include a risk assessment and safety guidelines, which are documented and adhered to.

14. Still have questions?

You can contact:

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